

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2008 - 5:00 p.m.
Room 402 City Hall

Members Present: Antoinette Dickenson, Donna Ennis, Warner Wirta, Dr. Robert Powless, Beat Kitto, Dr. Joy Dorscher

Excused Absent: Tony LaDeaux, Ricky DeFoe, Ron Boshey, Michele Gordon

Staff present: Char McLennan

Others present: See sign-in sheets. .

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Motion by Dr. Bob Powless, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 18, 2008 MEETING:

Motion by Dr. Bob Powless, seconded by Warner Wirta, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2008 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

- Bob Grytdahl spoke in place of George Himango. Bob brought a letter from Rachel Kincade and read it aloud. As a youth she worked at NERCC and is now living in the community. He is not allowed to attend spiritual activities such as attend Sweat Lodges because his curfew is 10:30 and the Sweat Lodge ends at 11:30. He is being denied the right to practice his religion. He would like the DAIC to begin dialogue with DOC to get this policy changed. Donna will invite Tom Roy to attend the next DAIC meeting on October 20, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS:

Health Promotions - American Cancer Society – Marjorie Johnson submitted a template for a Letter of Support of Colorectal Cancer Screening Bill. The DAIC agreed to mail a LOS to her on our letterhead. Marjorie also read some alarming statistics regarding Native people and cancer. Dr. Bob Powless made a motion that we support this endeavor and Warner Wirta seconded it.

Spirit Mountain Authority Master Plan – Lisa Augustine appeared as past Chair of Spirit Mountain Authority Board. She handed out a Master Plan that included the Mission, Objectives, and Vision for Spirit Mountain. Warner doesn't feel as though the Native community was invited to or included in the planning meetings. The October meeting on the 16th at 5:00 would be a good meeting for a member of the DAIC to come to. Warner

will attend. Lisa will give us a written response to Warner's memo. The DAIC would like to see a stronger mission/objective statement that reflects the preservation of culture on the Spirit Mountain Master Plan.

Indian Center Project Update and Discussion – Sherry Sanchez-Tibbitts said the project seems more real. Tribal leaders have taken tours as well. There is now space to hold community meetings. The Urban Indian Advisory Committee met there last week. Trepanier Hall is still not closed on yet. Tuesdays at 4:00 there is a Yoga class.

Next Steps Independent Civilian Review Board – Dr. Bob Powless stated that the police are going to respond to Tony's 5 page document that he submitted. The Police Chief will plan to attend the October DAIP meeting to give us an update. Eileen Luna will come in November or December. The police seem genuinely cooperative.

Annual Feast and Forum – Review of the event, logistics, attendance, and topics of concern expressed by the speakers -

Dr. Bob wished more had attended but all in all he thought it went well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Margaret Thomas – She admires all of us for the work we do.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Dr. Bob Powless – It is important that we teach the young ones our traditions and our ways. We need to present a positive picture to our young ones.

Warner Wirta – The DAIC is the first in the nation and we should be proud. Tony broke his attendance record.

Bea Kitto – She will talk to the Elders Concern Group about giving their input to the Spirit Mountain Authority people.

Antoinette Dickenson – Both people young and old are not allowed to practice their ways when they are in the correction system.

Donna Ennis – Shared a story about a young man that was impressed with the Community Feast and Forum and the Native professionals in the community.

Dr. Joy Dorscher – A sense of community is very important to young students. Joy is grateful to Warner for involving himself with the Spirit Mountain issues.

MEETING/DATE/LOCATION: October 20, 2008 at 5:00, Room 402: City Hall

ADJOURNMENT: 7:45 p.m.